



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

MEMORANDUM

To: Vermont Educators
From: Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Re: Communication on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
Date: February 27, 2009

This is my first of many communications to you regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Vermont Department of Education has been in communication with the US Education Department (USED) to clarify the details and requirements of ARRA and we have begun to analyze this information. Until now there were too many draft versions and incomplete suppositions being circulated to provide you with any definitive information.

For now here are a few items to bring to your attention:

1. We are waiting for the USED to issue guidance concerning the details of the implementation and accountability provisions. In an effort to establish regular communication, VTDOE will post updates in our Weekly Field Memo and establish an ARRA page on our Web site for you to access a variety of information and documents.
2. Separate funds for school modernization were not included in the final bill. House and Senate conferees instead added "facility improvement" as one of many possible uses within the Stabilization Fund. The Governor and the Legislature are studying the many possibilities of the stabilization funds but there have been no decisions to date.
3. Senator Leahy and Governor Douglas have organized an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Workshop to provide an overview of the ARRA and to build better statewide understanding of the various components of the Act. The workshop is on Friday, March 6, 2009 from 1:00 -5:00 p.m. at Champlain College (See attached announcement).

I wish I could provide you with more concrete details at this time but as I mentioned we will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.

For more information on ARRA from the USED use the following links:

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>
<http://www.recovery.gov/>